



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS WOMAN WANTED IN MEXICO

Mexican fugitive tried to prostitute her teen-age relative

EL PASO, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported a woman wanted in Mexico for allegedly prostituting a 14-year-old relative.

ICE deportation and removal officers handed Maria de la Luz Molina-Avila, 31, over to Mexican authorities at the top of the Stanton Street Bridge here today.

Molina-Avila, a citizen of Mexico, is wanted in Zamora, Michoacan, Mexico, for allegedly accepting 100 pesos, about \$10US, in exchange for allowing a man to have sex with Molina-Avila's teen-age relative in June 2003.

According to police reports, the teen-age girl struggled with the man after Molina-Avila left her alone with him in her house, and eventually escaped. Authorities later charged Molina-Avila with attempted sexual abuse, but she fled to the United States. She told ICE special agents that she entered the United States illegally in November 2003 near El Paso.

ICE special agents in Alamosa, Colo., located and arrested Molina-Avila Nov. 9 after receiving information that she and Patricia Molina-Avila, another Mexican woman also wanted for the same crime, were in the area. ICE special agents in Colorado are continuing efforts to locate Patricia Molina-Avila.

Today's deportation is part of a cooperative effort between ICE El Paso and Mexican officials that has resulted in arresting many fugitive criminals since the partnership began four years ago. Mexican fugitives wanted for serious crimes often attempt to avoid prosecution by hiding in the United States. Many of these fugitives commit additional crimes while in the U.S.

“We will continue to cooperate with Mexican authorities to return criminal aliens who flee to the United States to escape justice,” said Robert E. Jolicoeur, field office director for ICE El Paso Detention and Removal Operations. “Each time our officers deport a fugitive, they are helping make our country and our communities a safer place to live.”

Working in conjunction with the Mexican Attorney General’s Office, ICE El Paso detention and removal officers have returned 18 fugitives to Mexico during 2005. In return, Mexican authorities have turned six fugitives over to U.S. authorities who are wanted for serious crimes in this country. Last year, local ICE El Paso located and returned 21 fugitives to Mexico; 10 of those criminals were wanted for murder.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.